

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto are four (4) sheets of corrected formal drawings that comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. The corrected formal drawings incorporate the following drawing changes:

In Fig. 2a, reference numerals 160 and 260 have been added to point out the first inner gap and the second inner gap, respectively;

In Fig. 3, the shaft 910 has been added;

In Figs. 5a and 5b, reference numeral 160 has been added to point out the first inner gap 160, and the shifted predetermined angle θ has been added; and

In Fig. 5b, reference numeral 176 has been deleted.

It is respectfully requested that the corrected formal drawings be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 remain present in this application.

The specification and claims 1, 12 and 24 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5). The Examiner has asserted that reference numeral 710 appears in Fig. 3 but is not mentioned in the specification. Accordingly, an indication of reference numeral 710 has been added to page 7, line 24, of the specification, i.e., "the sleeve 710."

Also, the Examiner has asserted that the arc 174 discussed on page 8, line 10 of the specification is not shown in the drawings. In this regard, it is noted that the recitation of "arc 174" in the specification was amended to "arc 172,182" in the Amendment filed on March 10, 2003. Reference numerals 172, 182 refer to the "arc," and reference numerals 176, 186 refer to the "gap."

In view of the attached proposed drawing corrections and the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the drawing objections have been addressed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of any objection to the drawings are respectfully requested.

Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the instant invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by IDA, Japanese document 11-275847. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4, 12, 13 and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over IDA. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 5 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over IDA in view of CHEN, U.S. Patent 5,945,765. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 9 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over IDA in view of HASEBE, U.S. Patent 4,899,075. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 11 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over IDA in view of EBBS, U.S. Patent 3,383,534. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With regard to independent claims 1 and 12, it is respectfully submitted that the assembled stator 260 of the miniature motor structure of the application is removably disposed around the

sleeve of the base, thinning the motor. In contrast, IDA teaches a two-shaft stepping motor having a stator fixed on a bracket (5) by resin (17, 18) and two output shafts carrying two magnetic rings. Thus, IDA does not teach or suggest "a base with a sleeve" and "a stator disposed around the sleeve." The secondary references utilized by the Examiner fail to overcome the deficiencies of the IDA reference.

With regard to independent claim 24, it is respectfully submitted that this claim recites that "each first outer tooth is arranged to partially exceed each corresponding first inner tooth in the circumferential direction" and "each second outer tooth is arranged to partially exceed each corresponding second inner tooth in the circumferential direction" (see Figs 2a, 5a and 5b, for example).

Unlike the present invention, the inner and outer teeth of IDA are adjacent to one another in radial direction (See Figs. 1 and 7-8, for example). Thus, none of the references, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggested that "each outer tooth is arranged to partially exceed each corresponding inner tooth in the circumferential direction." The secondary references utilized by the Examiner fail to overcome the deficiencies of IDA.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner has allowed claims 21-23, and that the Examiner considers claim 24 to

contain allowable subject matter. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of the present invention are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art utilized by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all objections and rejections are respectfully requested.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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